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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 6 October 1952

SUBJECT Democratic Republic of Vietnam Efforts
to Control the Catholics in Interzone IV

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The repression movement against the Catholics is being continued in Interzone IV by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV). Three more priests have been arrested. However, Father Bui Van Nhiem of Nghi Loc has been released. The Directing Committee of the Lien Doan Cong Giao (United Catholic Front) has been dissolved and its members arrested with the exception of those who succeeded in fleeing. In its place, another committee has been formed, composed of pro-Communist Catholics. Members of this committee include: Huynh Chinh, professor at the Vu Dang Khoa Catholic School at Quynh Lieu; Tran Huy Tu, Chief of the propaganda section of the Nghe An Administrative Committee; and Chu Dich, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Lao Dong Party of Nghe An. Dich is not a Catholic.
2. The aim of this new committee is to reconcile the Catholic population with the DRV Government; have the Catholics participate in the various "people's conferences" and the various movements and campaigns organized by the Government. Up to the present, the Catholic population has remained hostile to such Government-sponsored campaigns and movements. In order to rally the support of Catholics of the lower class, this committee is supporting a proposal for the distribution of Church lands and wealth to the poor. In certain parishes, such as Trang Nua where there was an armed Catholic uprising in June 1952, this project is in the process of being implemented.

Comment. No strong or active reaction by the Catholics against these repressive acts has been observed. The younger Catholics seek only to escape from the DRV zone and reach Haiphong, Hanoi or Phat Diem.

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